

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #260

Your editor welcomes any and all submissions - news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to B.C. players. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. To subscribe, send me an e-mail (swright2@telus.net) or sign up via the BCCF webpage (www.chess.bc.ca); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

Philadelphia Open (March 27-31)

The Grand Pacific Open (see below) has developed into the traditional Easter tournament in these parts, but two B.C. players, James Chan and Severo Caluza, took the opportunity to play in the Philadelphia Open, held in the City of Brotherly Love on the same weekend. Other Canadians participating included IMs Aman Hambleton and Bindi Cheng, the latter now based in Toronto. The overall winners were GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez and IM Daniel Naroditsky, each scoring 7.0/9.

[Tournament website](#)

Chan, James - Strenzwilk, Denis [B32] Philadelphia Open (8), 31.03.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Be6 7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.N1c3 a6 10.Na3 Nd4 11.Nc2 Nxe2+ 12.Qxe2 0-0 13.Ne3 Rc8 14.Bd2 g6 15.Rac1 Nh5 16.Ned5 Bg5 17.b3 f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.Rcd1 Be6 20.Bxg5 Qxg5 21.Ne4 Qd8 22.Nxd6 Bxd5 23.Nxc8 Qxc8 24.cxd5 Nf4 25.Qe3 Qg4 26.g3 Nh3+ 27.Kg2 Nxf2 28.Rd2 Qh3+ 29.Kg1 Qxf1+ 30.Kxf1 Ng4+ 31.Ke2 Nxe3 32.Kxe3 Re8 33.Ke4 Kf7 34.Rf2+ Ke7 35.Kxe5 Kd7+ 36.Kd4 Re1 37.Rf7+ Kd6 38.Rxb7 Rd1+ 39.Kc4 Rc1+ 40.Kb4 Rc2 41.h4 Rxa2 42.Rxh7 a5+ 43.Kc4 Rc2+ 44.Kb5 Rc3 45.g4 Rxb3+ 46.Kxa5 Kc5 47.Ka4 Rb4+ 48.Ka3 Rxg4 49.h5 ½-½

March Active (March 24)

In contrast to February, which saw an unusually low turnout due to the absence of many juniors who had played in a major scholastic event the day before, March's active event filled the Vancouver Chess School close to capacity, with forty-five players taking part. The tournament also marked an off-day for BC Active Champion Mayo Fuentebella, who has been winning most of the active events of late; he suffered a second-round loss to Joe Roback and finished in a tie for third place with 4.5 points. The overall winner was Vicente Lee Jr., who gave up a last-round draw on his way to the first prize, while second was Roback with his excellent score of 5.0/6.



Vicente Lee Jr. and Maxim Doroshenko

Class prizes were won by Matthew Herdin (U2000), Jofrel Landingin and Michael Su (U1800), Hiroshi Fujiwara (U1500), and Jim Guo and James Li (U1200); Annika Zhou had the biggest upset. Thanks to organizer Maxim Doroshenko and all those who helped make the event a success.

[Crosstable](#)

Vancouver Spring Open (March 16-17)

EAC Chess Arts (Eugenio Alonso Campos) and the Vancouver Chess School (Maxim Doroshenko) joined forces to present this five-round Swiss event at the beginning of March break. Highest ranked in the seventeen-player field by a wide margin was Tanraj Sohal, but after unexpected loss to Joe Soliven in round three Sohal had to be content tying for first with fellow junior Max Gedajlovic – both scored 4.0/5. Tied for third a half-point back were Soliven and Jofrel Landingin; each lost to Gedajlovic and took a half-point bye.

[Crosstable](#)

GRAND PACIFIC OPEN (March 29 – April 1) by Roger Patterson

The 7th annual Grand Pacific Open took place on a gorgeous spring weekend. With temperatures of 20+ degrees it was definitely the place to be in Canada. Jack Yoos, coming off a disastrous BC Closed, made sure to keep his street cred up by winning the main event with a convincing score of 5.5/6, including victories over several of his competitors for the title of BC champion. \$5000 in guaranteed prizes were awarded (actually \$5020 due to a late donation), as well as \$100 for the midnight blitz side event and numerous door prizes.

Roughly 106 players took part in the main event with players from four different countries, four provinces, and five US states. We have an informal prize for furthest traveled which was almost a tie! It turns out that Japan and England are within a few 100 km of the same distance from Victoria. Breaking the tie came down to considering the exact city. In addition, there were a



Our 2013 Champion: Jack Yoos with his trophy.

(photo: BlueGiraffe photography)

number of side events - a YCC to qualify for this year's CYCC, a four round active event, Midnight Blitz, and of course a Bughouse event to close the weekend.

This year we even had an official photographer - Douglas Bain of BlueGiraffe photography. Photos for YCC, GPO, and Bughouse are at his [home page](#) (under galleries/events/chess). Prints can be ordered directly from his webpage.

The location was the superb Hotel Grand Pacific situated in downtown Victoria on the waterfront, next to the BC legislature. Next year's event is already booked for Easter 2014, April 18-21. Make your plans now! More details will be forthcoming soon on our [website](#).

[This report](#), with crosstables, additional photos and games.

Rohonyan, Katerina - Airapetian, Chouchanik [C52] Grand Pacific Open 7th Victoria (2.2), 30.03.2013

The Evan's Gambit – not entirely unknown in modern practice after its adoption by Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short among others, but still fairly rare.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4 7.0–0 Nf6 8.cxd4 Nxe4 9.d5 Ne7 10.Qd4 Nf6 11.Bg5 0–0 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nbd2 Bxd2 14.Nxd2 Nf5 15.Qg4+ Ng7 16.d6 f5 17.Qg3 cxd6 18.Nf3 d5 19.Bxd5 d6 20.Ng5 Qf6 21.Rad1 f4 22.Ne4 Qe5 23.Qh4 Bf5 24.Nxd6 Bg6 25.Rfe1 Qh5 26.Qxf4 Ne6 27.Qg3 Rad8 28.h4 Kh8 29.Rd2 Rg8 30.Qc3+ Rg7 31.Bxe6 Qxh4 32.Bxf7 h6 33.Bxg6 1–0

Yoos, Jack - Day, Lawrence [C29] Grand Pacific Open 7th Victoria (5.1), 31.03.2013

...and a battle between two practitioners of the King's Gambit:

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 exf4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.d4 Bg4 7.Be2 Bf5 8.Bxf4 Bb4 9.Bg5 Nbd7 10.Bf3 0–0 11.Nge2 h6 12.Bd2 Nb6 13.0–0 Nc4 14.Bc1 Re8 15.a3 Bf8 16.b3 Nd6 17.Ng3 Bh7 18.Na4 g5 19.Nc5 Bg7 20.Bb2 Qc8 21.Nh5 Nxh5 22.Bxh5 Re7 23.Nd3 b6 24.Ne5 f6 25.Nc6 Re4 26.Bf3 Re8 27.c4 Qd7 28.Bg4 f5 29.Bh5 Re4 30.Bf3 Ree8 31.Be2 f4 32.Bg4 Bf5 33.Bh5 Re3 34.Ne5 Qe7 35.Re1 Rxe1+ 36.Qxe1 Kh7 37.Qe2 Rf8 38.Re1 Ne8 39.Ng4 Qxe2 40.Rxe2 Nf6 41.Nxf6+ Bxf6 42.h3 Kg7 43.Bg4 Bd3 44.Re6 Bg6 45.Rc6 Rf7 46.d6 cxd6 47.Rxd6 h5 48.Be6 Rb7 49.b4 Be8 50.Bc8 Rc7 51.Be6 Be7 52.Rxb6 Bf6 53.Rxa6 1–0

Villavieja, Butch - Yoos, Jack [B06] Grand Pacific Open 7th Victoria (6.1), 01.04.2013

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.a4 b4 7.Nd5 a5 8.f3 c6 9.Nf4 Ba6 10.Ngh3 Bxf1 11.Rxf1 Nd7 12.Kf2 Ngf6 13.Kg1 0–0 14.Nd3 Qc7 15.Qf2 Rac8 16.Rad1 c5 17.dxc5 dxc5 18.Kh1 c4 19.Ndf4 Nc5 20.Ra1 e6 21.Qh4 Rfd8 22.Ne2 e5 23.Bg5 Rd6 24.Ng3 h5 25.f4 Nh7 26.fxe5 Bxe5 27.Bf4 Bxf4 28.Rxf4 Ne6 29.Rf2 Qd8 30.Qxd8+ Rcx8 31.Raf1 R8d7 32.e5 Rd5 33.Re1 Rd1 34.Ref1 Rxf1+ 35.Nxf1 Rd1 36.Kg1 Re1 37.Nf4 Nc5 38.e6 fxe6 39.Nxg6 Nxa4 40.Ne7+ Kg7 41.Nc6 Nxb2 42.Nxa5 Nf6 43.Nc6 Nd1 44.Rf3 Nd5 45.Nd4 c3 46.h4 N1e3 47.Nxe6+ Kh6 48.Nd4 Rd1 49.Nb3 Nxc2 50.Kh2 Ne1 51.Nd4 Rxd4 0–1

Day, Lawrence - Pechisker, Alfred [A08] Grand Pacific Open 7th Victoria (6.3), 01.04.2013

1.g3 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.0–0 e5 5.d3 f6 6.e4 d4 7.Nh4 Be6 8.f4 Qd7 9.Nd2 0–0–0 10.a3 Nge7 11.b4 cxb4 12.axb4 b5 13.Ndf3 h6 14.fxe5 fxe5 15.Bd2 g6 16.Ra3 Bg7 17.Qa1 Kb8 18.c4

dxc3 19.Bxc3 Nd4 20.Nxd4 exd4 21.Bd2 g5 22.Nf5 Be5 23.Ra5 Rh7 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Rc5 Rxc5
 26.bxc5 Nxf5 27.exf5 Bd5 28.Bxd5 Qxd5 29.Rxb5+ Rb7 30.Qa5 Bc7 31.Qb4 Be5 32.Kf2 Kc8
 33.Rxb7 Qh1 34.Ke2 Qxh2+ 35.Kd1 Qh1+ 36.Kc2 Qxb7 37.Qxb7+ Kxb7 38.Kb3 Kc6 39.Kc4 Bf6
 40.g4 Be5 41.Bc1 a5 42.Bb2 a4 43.Bxd4 Bxd4 44.Kxd4 a3 45.Kc3 Kxc5 46.Kb3 Kd6



[Now 47.d4 wins for White, but after] 47.Kxa3 h5 48.gxh5 Ke7 [White resigned, presumably missing that after 49.h6 Kf7 50.d4 g4 51.d5 g3 52.h7 Kg7 53.h8Q+ Kxh8 54.d6 g2 55.d7 g1Q 56.d8Q+ he was queening with check and drawing.] 0–1

Sohal, Tanraj - Gluckie, Jamin [E99] Grand Pacific Open 7th Victoria (6.4), 01.04.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 e5 7.0–0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Ne8 10.Nd3 f5
 11.Bd2 Nf6 12.f3 f4 13.c5 g5 14.Rc1 Ng6 15.Nb5 Rf7 16.Ba5 b6 17.cxd6 cxd6 18.Bb4 Bf8 19.Be1
 h5 20.Nb4 Nh7 21.Nc6 Qf6 22.Ncxa7 Bd7 23.Nc6 Rc8 24.Nc3 g4 25.fxg4 Rg7 26.Na4 Nh4
 27.Bxh4 Qxh4 28.Qe1 1–0

OH, WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR by Paul Leblanc, Victoria Chess

As we prepare for the 7th annual Grand Pacific Open, I feel tremendously encouraged by the resurgence in chess activity in BC. In particular, since last year's record GPO turnout of 119 players including GM Hikaru Nakamura, all the major BC events experienced multiple year attendance records. In May, FM Jack Yoos triumphed over an 8 year record 92 players in the Keres Memorial with a brilliant last round win against German IM Dietmar Kolbus. Surrey hosted the Canadian Youth Chess Championships in July (193 players), producing three national champions from BC (Jason Cao U12, Joshua Doknjas U10 and Neil Doknjas U8). The Canadian Open (153 players) was held July for the first time ever in Victoria and was won by Canadian GM sensation Eric Hansen of Alberta. This was the largest tournament ever held in Victoria. Langley's Labour Day Open attracted a 43 year record 60 entries and featured a dramatic upset victory for BC Junior Yifei Han. The Vancouver Open in November set a new record of 43 players and saw a three-way tie for first place among juniors Jason Cao, Ryan Lo and Jack Cheng.

A brand new tournament made its debut at SFU in January 2013 – the BC Senior Championship. Alonso Campos won the event with convincing victories in the last two rounds against main rivals Darko Dimitrijevic and Brian McLaren. In February 2013, the BC Open returned to Richmond after a one year hiatus and set a 29 year record for attendance. Again a junior won the event as Tanraj Sohal clinched clear first place with a last round win against BC Closed Champion Butch Villavieja. See Tanraj's annotations in BC Bulletin #258. Other highlights included the BC Closed won by Butch Villavieja, the BC Junior Championship (equal first Jason Cao, Jack Cheng, Tanraj Sohal) BC Junior Championship Reserves (won by Rinna Yu) and the BC Active Championship (won by Mayo Fuentabella).

Some BC players were also active in events outside the province. The Canadian Chess Challenge in Halifax saw four BC juniors capture national championships (Kevin Low Grade 1, Joshua Doknjas Grade 4, John Doknjas Grade 7 and Tanraj Sohal Grade 10. Finally, Paul Leblanc won the Canadian Armed Forces Championship in Quebec City in May 2012. Another notable achievement was the awarding of a Webster University, St. Louis chess scholarship to Tanraj Sohal by Susan Polgar as a result of Tanraj's victory in the National High School Open Scholarship tournament in New Orleans in March 2013.

I would like to acknowledge the dedicated organizers and TDs who made this wonderful year possible. In no particular order and in trepidation that my list may be incomplete, I'd like to thank:

Mark Dutton, TD
Butch Villavieja, TD
Stephen Wright, TD
Aaron Cosenza UBC
Joe Roback SFU
Ken Jensen BC Junior Chess
Brian Raymer Victoria Junior Chess
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Valer Eugen Demian Golden Knights Chess
Roger Patterson, Brian Raymer, Paul Leblanc Victoria Chess
Maxim Doroshenko, Vancouver Chess School
Brian Davidson and Hugh Long, Langley Chess
Anna Datcu-Romano, Fraser Heights Chess
Victoria Doknjas-Jung and Vivian Lai, National Chess Challenge Team Captains
Henry Chiu, Knightmare Chess

And a very special mention to:

Stephen Wright, our dedicated BCCF Bulletin editor
Len Molden, our dedicated webmaster

Finally, and most importantly to the players: thank you to all of you for supporting BC Chess. Without your continuing presence, there would be no future for competitive chess in BC!



Team BC at the Chess Challenge

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones



Black to play

This position arose in a game played by two juniors in the recent BC Open Championship in Richmond. White has just played 1.g4, and after some thought Black responded with the unfortunate 1...f4. The problem with this move is that Black can no longer break into White's position with his king because all the entry squares are either blocked or covered. As a result, the game was soon abandoned as a draw.

The interesting question is whether Black can make progress if he plays something other than 1...f4. On the Chess in BC website several players expressed the opinion that Black is already winning, but no analysis was provided. In today's instalment of Browsing for Endgames we will try to get closer to the truth.

First, an important observation. Assuming White does not blunder, there are only three realistic ways for Black to improve his position: 1) Capture White's f-pawn; 2) Capture White's c-pawn; 3) Create a passed h-pawn and use it to break White's position. If Black cannot accomplish one of these goals, White will just sit tight and make a draw by repetition, blockade – call it what you like.

Another important observation. Despite appearances, White's rook is not completely tied down by the attack on the c-pawn. Black's b-pawn is also vulnerable, which gives White the option of playing R-a1-a5xb5. If Black cannot defend the b-pawn with his king, White will trade off a couple of pawns on the queenside, and at the same time activate his rook. This should make it much easier for him to obtain a draw.

The following analysis contains several branches, depending on where Black sends his king and whether (and when) he exchanges pawns on g4. In the first variation, Black exchanges pawns right away and sends his king to f4 in straightforward fashion.

A. 1...fxg4 2.hxg4

White is forced to recapture with the h-pawn, giving Black the possibility of creating an outside passed pawn with the moves ...g6 and ...h5. This could spell trouble for White since the pawn's advance will deflect at least one of his pieces away from defending the queenside.

2...Kd6

Taking the indirect route to e5 and f4 forestalls the immediate counterattack on Black's b-pawn, which can now be protected with the move ...Kc6. However, White has another defensive idea available.

3.Kf2! Ke5 4.Re1+!



4...Kd5

Unfortunately for Black, he cannot follow up with 4...Kf4 because of 5.Re4+ Kg5 6.Re5+ Kf6 (not 6...Kf4?? 7.Rf5#!) 7.Rxb5 and neither side can realistically hope to win.

5.Re7

It was also possible to repeat the position with 5...Rc1.

5...Rxc3 6.Rd7+ Kc6 7.Rxg7 Rb3 8.Rg6+ Kd5 9.Rxh6 Rxb4 10.g5 Rb2+ 11.Ke3 Rg2 12.g6 c3 13.Kd3 b4 14.Rh5+ Ke6 15.Rc5 Kf6

Or 15...Rxg6 16.Kc4 c2 17.Kxb4 Rg2 18.Kb3, etc.

16.Kc4 Rb2 17.Rc6+ Kg7 18.Kd3 Kh6 19.f4 Rf2 20.Rc4 Rd2+ 21.Ke3 Kxg6 22.Rxb4

Now the position is clearly a draw. The conclusion is that exchanging pawns and playing the king to f4 does not lead to anything decisive if White defends correctly.

In the next variation we will look the idea of playing the Black king to d6 without exchanging pawns first. Compared with the last variation, the idea is that after an eventual Re1+ by White, the Black pawn on f5 will cover e4 and prevent the White rook from giving check on that square.

B. 1...Kd6 2.gxf5!



With this capture White changes his defensive strategy to one of counterattack on Black's kingside pawns. Other ideas are inferior:

a) 2.Ra1 Rxc3 3.Ra5 Kc6 4.gxf5 Rb3 5.Ra7 Rxb4 6.Rxg7 Rb2+ 7.Ke3 Kd6 8.f6 Ke6 and Black is winning;

b) 2.Rd1 Rxd1 3.Kxd1 fxg4 4.hxg4 Ke5 followed by 5...Kf4 with a winning pawn ending for Black;

c) 2.Kf2 Ke5 3.Kg3 (if 3.Re1+ Kf4 and Black wins the f-pawn as noted above) 3...fxg4 4.hxg4 Re3 5.Rc2 g6 6.Rc1 h5 7.gxh5 (or 7.Rc2 h4+! 8.Kxh4 Kf4 9.Rd2 Rxc3 10.Rd4+ Ke5 11.Rd8 Rxf3, etc.) 7...gxh5 8.Rc2 Kf5 9.Rc1 Kg5 10.Rd1 h4+ 11.Kf2 Rxc3 12.Rd5+ Kf4 13.Rd4+ Ke5 14.Rxh4 Rb3 15.Rh5+ Kd4 16.Rxb5 c3 17.Rc5 Rb2+ 18.Ke1 Rh2 19.Kd1 Kd3 20.Rd5+ Kc4 21.Rc5+ Kb3 and Black wins.

2...Ke5 3.Rg1!

Not 3.Ra1? Rxc3 4.Ra5 Kd4 5.Rxb5 Re3+ and now:

a) 6.Kd2 Rxf3 7.Rb7 Rf2+ 8.Kd1 Rxf5 9.Rxg7 Kc3 and wins;

b) 6.Kf2 Re7 7.Rb6 c3 8.Rc6 Kd3 9.Rd6+ Kc2 10.Re6 Rf7 11.f6 gxf6 and wins.

3...Rxc3 4.Rxg7 Rb3 5.Rc7 Rxb4 6.Rc5+ Kd6



Things look difficult for White but he has a clever resource available:

7.f6! Ke6

Of course not 7...Kxc5? 8.f7 and White wins.

8.Rc6+ Kf7 9.Ke3 Rb3+ 10.Ke4 Ra3 11.Rb6 Ra7 12.Rxb5 Rc7



13.Rb2

13.Ke5 also draws: 13...c3 14.Rb1 c2 15.Rc1 Rc8 16.Kd4 Kxf6 17.Kd3 followed by 18.Rxc2, etc.

13...Kxf6 14.Rc2 c3 15.Kd3 Kf5 16.Rxc3 Rxc3+ 17.Kxc3

Black can win both pawns but not the resulting position, as the reader may easily verify.

In the next variation Black takes the direct route toward f4 without first exchanging pawns.

C. 1...Ke6

This defuses White's plan of 2.gxf5 followed by 3.Rg1, but it leaves Black's b-pawn vulnerable to attack. White immediately changes course.

2.Ra1!

If 2.gxf5+? Kxf5 3.Ra1 Kf4 4.Ra5 Rxf3 5.Rxb5 Rxh3 6.Rc5 Rxc3 7.Kd2 Rd3+ 8.Kc2 Rd6 9.Rxc4+ Ke5, and with White's king cut off from the kingside, it is unlikely that he can save the game. It is more accurate to attack the b-pawn immediately.

2...Rxc3 3.Ra5 fxc4

3...f4 4.Rxb5 Rc2+ 5.Kf1

4.hxc4 Ke5 5.Rxb5+ Kd4



Black has played as actively as possible and is threatening to promote his passed pawn with the support of his king. White has some difficulties to overcome but it appears that he can always stay within the drawing zone. One important idea is that of advancing his b-pawn in order to distract Black's rook and in some cases his king. After 5...Kd3 there are two main variations depending on where White sends his rook.

Variation C1

6.Rb7?

This move is well-motivated but it is actually serious inaccuracy that allows Black to execute his plan.

6...Rc2+! 7.Kd1 Kc3! 8.Rxg7 Kb2!



Black's king has taken control of all of the squares that his c-pawn must cross in order to promote. On top of that, White's b-pawn actually shields the king from checks along the file.

9.b5 c3 10.Rc7 Rd2+ 11.Ke1 Rd6

There is nothing left for White except resignation.

Variation C2

6.Rf5!



At first glance this variation appears to be similar to variation C1 but it contains a very important resource for White.

6...Rb3

If Black plays 6...Rc2+ as in variation C1, there follows 7.Kd1 Kc3 8.b5! Kb2 9.b6! and White's b-pawn is no longer shielding Black's king from checks. This is why it was important to keep White's rook on the fifth rank.

7.b5 Rb2+ 8.Kd1 c3

Or 8...Kd3 9.Kc1 c3 10.Rd5+ Ke3 11.Rf5 g5 12.Rc5 Kf2 13.Rf5 Kg2 14.Rc5 Kg3 15.Rf5 Kf2 16.Rc5 Ke2 17.Rf5 Kd3 18.Rd5+ Kc4 19.Rf5 Rxb5 20.Rf6 and draws.

9.f4! Kd3

If 9...Ke4 then 10.Rf7.

10.Rd5+ Ke4

Or 10...Kc4 11.Rd7 g5 12.Rc7+ Kd4 13.fxg5 hxg5 14.Rb7 Kd3 15.Rd7+ Ke3 16.Rf7 Rxb5 17.Rf5 Rb4 18.Rxg5 and draws.

11.Rf5 Rd2+ 12.Kc1 Ra2 13.Rf7 Kd3 14.Rd7+ Kc4 15.b6 Kb3 16.Ra7 Rf2 17.Rd7

Neither side can make progress and the draw is therefore clear.

Finally we will analyse Black's plan of playing his king to g5 with the further idea of attacking f3 and/or creating a passed h-pawn.

D. 1...Kf6 2.Ra1!

The simplest defence. White can also play 2.Kf2 when the following variations are possible:

a) 2...Kg5 3.gxf5 Kf4 4.Ke2 Re3+ 5.Kd2 Rxf3 6.Rg1 Rd3+ 7.Kc2 Rxh3 8.Rxg7 Rh2+ 9.Kc1 Kxf5 10.Rb7 Ke4 11.Rxb5 Kd3 12.Rd5+ Kxc3 13.b5 Rh1+ 14.Rd1 Rh5 15.Rd6 Rxb5 16.Rxh6 Rg5 17.Rh3+ and draws;

b) 2...fxg4 3.hxg4 g6 4.f4 g5 (4...h5 5.gxh5 gxh5 6.Rh1 Kg6 7.Rg1+ Kf5 8.Rg5+ Kxf4 9.Rxh5 Rxc3 10.Rxb5 with equality) 5.f5 h5 6.gxh5 g4 7.h6 Rh3 8.Rd1 Kg5 9.Rd5 Rxc3 10.h7 Rh3 11.Rxb5 Rxh7 12.Rc5 Rh2+ 13.Kg3 Rh3+ 14.Kg2 Rb3 15.Rxc4 Kxf5 16.Kf2 and neither side can win.

2...Kg5 3.Ra5

Also possible is 3.gxf5; for example: 3...Kf4 4.Ra5 Re3+ 5.Kd2 Re5 6.Ra7 Kxf3 7.Rf7 Rd5+ 8.Kc2 Ke4 9.f6 gxf6 10.Rxf6 Rh5 11.Re6+ Kf4 (if 11...Kd5 then 12.Re3) 12.Rf6+ Ke5 (or 12...Kg3 13.Rb6 Kxh3 14.Rg6) 13.Rb6 Rxh3 14.Rxb5+ Ke4 15.Kb2 Rh2+ 16.Ka3 Kd3 17.Rf5 Kxc3 18.b5! Rh1 19.Ka2 Kd3 20.b6 c3 21.Rf3+ Kc4 22.Rf4+ Kd5 23.Rf2 Kc6 24.Rf6+ Kb7 25.Kb3 Rh3 26.Kc2 h5 27.Rh6. White's forces are very active and Black can make no progress despite having an extra pawn.

3...Rd5 4.gxf5 Kxf5 5.Ra7



5...g6

Or 5...g5 6.Rf7+ Kg6 7.Rb7 Kh5 8.Rb6 Rd3 9.Rxb5 Kh4 10.Rb6 h5 11.Rh6 Rxc3 12.b5 Rb3 13.b6 Kg3 14.Rxh5 Rxb6 15.Rxg5+ Kxh3 16.Kd2 with an obvious draw.

6.h4 Rd3 7.Rb7 Rxc3 8.Rxb5+ Kf4 9.Rc5 g5 10.hxg5 hxg5 11.b5 Re3+ 12.Kd2 Kxf3 13.Rxg5



White's king is in front of Black's pawn and cannot be driven away. Black can play on as long as he likes but he cannot force a win.

Conclusion

In the initial position Black's advantage is not sufficient to force a win against accurate defence. If White plays actively he can always keep his disadvantage within manageable limits. In many cases this involves simplification into an ending of rook vs rook and pawn, which confirms yet again the importance of making a systematic study of these positions.

Your feedback on this column is always welcome. Email the writer at dscoones@telus.net.

BI-WEEKLY BAFFLER by Valer Eugen Demian



Baffler #8:

We can safely assume Black has been under heavy attack with his King left in the centre and all his pieces close together to protect it. White went for an all-out attack based on how his remaining forces are placed all over the board. Black is substantially ahead in material by a Bishop and a pawn. Is there anything in this position White can look at from a different angle and use in his favour? Yes, there is. Please find it together with a winning combination for White (moving first).



#7 Answer:

Depending how you look at things, positives can be negatives and the other way around. The Kings' opposition could be a positive for the side having to move; the Black King is surrounded by his own group of devoted forces (positive?), protecting him from long strings of check moves; however he is also restricted in his movements (positive for White!) by the same forces. There is not a lot White can do but attack Kh4; once we realise that and put it together with the positive

approach, the solution is not hard to figure out:

1.Qe7+ Qg5

If 1... g5?? 2.Qe1+ Qg3+ 3.Qxg3#

2.Qe4+ Qg4 3.Qe3!! ... zugzwang 1-0

A beautiful final position with Black completely handcuffed. Considering it was played back in 1941 (no computers!...), it must have produced a strong impression on the players and audience.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UBC Thursday Night Swiss

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Henry Angus Building, University of British Columbia
entry fee \$21 Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca

EAC Open #21

April 12-13, Surrey
[Details](#)

EAC Open #22

April 26-27, Surrey
[Details](#)

April Active

April 28, Vancouver
[Details](#)

Calgary International Chess Classic

May 14-20, Calgary, AB
[Details](#)

Vladimir Georgiev Simultaneous

May 17, Vancouver Chess School
[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

May 18-20, Richmond
[Details](#)

Bowser Builders Supply Open

August 11, Bowser (Vancouver Island)
[Details](#)